WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula I:

$$\mathbb{R}^3 \xrightarrow{\mathbb{R}^2} \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{N}^1} \mathbb{N}^2$$

wherein:

R1 is selected from the group consisting of:

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R² is selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) $R^{4}-S(O)_{m}-NR^{5}-$,
- (2) $R^{4}-S(O)_{m}$
- (3) R4NHCO-,
- (4) R4CONH-,
 - (5) R^4R^5N -,
 - (6) nitrile,
 - (7) NC- C_{1-6} alkyl-,
 - (8) halogen,
- 20 (9)

(10)

R³ is selected from the group consisting of:

R4 is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) hydrogen,

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- (2) C_{1-6} alkyl,
- (3) phenyl, and
- (4) benzyl;

R⁵ is independently selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) hydrogen;
- (2) C_{1-6} alkyl,
- (3) phenyl,
- (4) benzyl, and

R6a, R6b, and R6c are independently selected from the group consisting of:

20 (1) hydrogen,

- (2) halogen,
- (3) $-OR^5$,
- (4) -SR⁵, and
- (5) C_{1-6} alkyl;

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R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of -C=C-, O, S, and NH;

Z is selected from the group consisting of CO, CH-OH, CH-F and



- 10 R^{8a} and R^{8b} are independently selected from the group consisting of:
 - (1) nitrile
 - (2) hydrogen,
 - (3) halogen,
 - (4) $-OR^5$,
 - (5) $-SR^5$,
 - (6) C_{1-6} alkyl,
 - (7) $-CO_2R^5$, and
 - (8) tetrazolyl;
- X¹ is hydrogen and X² is hydroxyl, or X¹ and X² together form oxo;
 n is independently 1, 2, 3, or 4;
 m is independently 0, 1, or 2;
 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
- 25 2. The compound of Claim 1 wherein X^1 and X^2 together form oxo.
 - 3. The compound of Claim 1 wherein X^1 is hydrogen and X^2 is hydroxyl.
 - 4. The compound of Claim 1 wherein R¹ is:

and wherein:

n is 2 or 3; and

R⁵ is hydrogen or methyl;

- 5 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
 - 5. The compound of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is:

and wherein n is 1, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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6. The compound of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is:

and wherein:

R⁵ is hydrogen or methyl;

15 Z is selected from the group consisting of CO, CH-OH, and

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

7. The compound of Claim 1 wherein R^2 is:

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$$R^{4}-S(O)_{2}-NR^{5}-$$

and wherein R4 is selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) C_{1-6} alkyl,
- (3) phenyl, and
- (4) benzyl;

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R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) C_{1-6} alkyl,
- (2) phenyl,
- (3) benzyl, and
- 10 (4) hydrogen;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8. The compound of Claim 1 wherein R³ is:

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and wherein:

R4 is methyl;

R6a is H or F;

R6b and R6c are hydrogen;

- 20 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
 - 9. The compound of Claim 1 wherein R³ is:

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wherein:

R⁵ is methyl;

R7 is O or NH;

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and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10. The compound of Claim 2 which is selected from the group consisting of:

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

11. The compound of Claim 3 which is selected from the group consisting of:

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and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

- 12. A compound of Claim 1 in substantially diastereomerically pure form.
- 13. A substantially diastereomerically pure compound of Claim 1 in substantially enantiomerically pure form.
- 14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
 - 15. A method for inhibition of β -secretase activity in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

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16. A method for the manufacture of a medicament for inhibition of β -secretase activity in a mammal comprising combining a compound of Claim 1 with a pharmaceutical carrier or diluent.

17. A method for treating, preventing, controlling, ameliorating or reducing the risk of Alzheimers disease in a patient comprising the administration to the patient of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

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